

CLAIMS:

1. A computerised identity matching management process for regulating the issue of secure assets, the process comprising the steps of:
 - identifying an asset having a unique classification identifier;
 - 5 identifying an issuer of the asset and a receiver of the asset, each comprising the steps of:
 - a management computer receiving a request, from capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric representative of the issuer of the asset or the receiver of the asset, to initiate the capture process;
 - 10 the management computer responding to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus, the message containing a unique code and receipt of the message containing the code at the capture apparatus causing initiation of the capture process;
 - 15 the capture apparatus encoding a captured biometric representative of the issuer of the asset or representative of the receiver of the asset with the code;
 - the management computer, after returning the message, receiving the encoded captured biometric; and
 - 20 the management computer decoding the captured biometric and initiating a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and generating an identification code representative of the issuer of the asset or representative of the receiver of the asset when a match is found;
 - 25 retrieving a receiver's privilege to determine whether the receiver's privilege matches the asset classification identifier and, if a match is determined
 - issuing the asset and recording information to form a use record relating to the issue of the asset.
2. The process according to claim 1, where the step of the management computer returning the message to the capture apparatus occurs at a first instance in time, the management computer receiving the encoded captured biometric at a second instance in time, and the management computer operating to decode the encoded captured biometric and initiate the matching process only when the second instance is less than a predetermined time interval later than the first instance.
3. The process according to claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising the step of generating an alert if the receiver's privilege does not match the asset classification.

4. The process according to claims 1 to 3, where the assets comprise any one or more of the following: firearms, weapons, batons, pharmaceutical medications and products, narcotics, precious metals and legal documents.
5. 5. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, where the unique identifier is securely attached to, or imprinted directly onto or into, the asset.
6. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, where the unique identifier is a barcode.

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7. The process according to any one of claims 1 to 5, where the unique identifier is a radio frequency identifier.
8. A computerised identity matching management process for regulating the return of secure assets, the process comprising the steps of:
 - identifying an asset having a unique classification identifier;
 - identifying a receiver who seeks to return the asset, comprising the steps of:
 - a management computer receiving a request, from capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric representative of the receiver who seeks to return the asset, to initiate the capture process;
 - the management computer responding to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus, the message containing a unique code and receipt of the message containing the code at the capture apparatus causing initiation of the capture process;
 - 25 the capture apparatus encoding a captured biometric representative of the receiver of the asset with the code;
 - the management computer, after returning the message, receiving the encoded captured biometric; and
 - the management computer decoding the captured biometric and initiating a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and generating an identification code representative of the receiver when a match is found;
 - retrieving a receiver's privilege to determine whether the receiver's privilege matches the asset classification identifier and, if a match is determined
 - 35 retrieving the asset from the receiver and recording information to form a use record relating to the retrieval of the asset.

9. The process according to claim 8, further comprising the step of identifying an issuer of assets to whom the asset is returned, comprising the steps of:
 - the management computer receiving a request, from capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric representative of the issuer, to 5 initiate the capture process;
 - the management computer responding to the request by returning a message to the capture apparatus at a first instant in time, the message containing a unique code and receipt of the message containing the code at the capture apparatus causing initiation of the capture process;
10. the capture apparatus encoding a captured biometric representative of the issuer of the asset with the code;
- the management computer, after returning the message, receiving the encoded captured biometric; and
- the management computer decoding the captured biometric and initiating 15 a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and generating an identification code representative of the issuer when a match is found.

10. The process according to claim 8 or claim 9, where the step of the management 20 computer returning the message to the capture apparatus occurs at a first instance in time, the management computer receiving the encoded captured biometric at a second instance in time, and the management computer operating to decode the encoded captured biometric and initiate the matching process only when the second instance is less than a predetermined time interval later than the first instance.

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11. The process according to any one of claims 8 to 10, where the assets comprise any one or more of the following: firearms, weapons, batons, pharmaceutical medications and products, narcotics, precious metals, and legal documents.
- 30 12. The process according to any one of claims 8 to 11, where the unique identifier is securely attached to, or imprinted directly onto or into, the asset.
13. The process according to any one of claims 8 to 12, where the unique identifier is a barcode.

14. The process according to any one of claims 8 to 12, where the unique identifier is a radio frequency identifier.

15. A computerized identity matching management system for regulating the issue 5 of, or the return of, secure assets, comprising:

a data depository to store records of assets each having a unique asset classification identifier and a record of receivers and receivers' privileges;

an asset identifier for identifying the asset to be issued or to be returned;

a computer programmed to:

10 receive a request, from capture apparatus waiting to commence a capture process of a biometric, to initiate the capture process to identify a receiver who is requesting the issue of an asset or the return of an asset;

15 respond to the request to return a message to the capture apparatus, the message containing a unique code, and where receipt of the message containing the code at the capture apparatus causes initiation of the capture process;

after returning the message, receive a captured biometric from the capture apparatus encoded with the code; and

to decode the captured biometric; and

20 an authentication server to perform a matching process to find a match for the decoded captured biometric against stored records and to generate an identification code representative of the receiver who is requesting the issue of an asset or the return of an asset when a match is found, the server further retrieving the receiver's privilege to determine whether the receiver's privilege matches the asset classification identifier, and if a match is determined forming a use record relating to the issue of the asset or 25 the return of the asset.

16. The process according to claim 15, where the step of the management computer returning the message to the capture apparatus occurs at a first instance in time, the management computer receiving the encoded captured biometric at a second instance in 30 time, and the management computer operating to decode the encoded captured biometric and initiate the matching process only when the second instance is less than a predetermined time interval later than the first instance.

17. The system according to claim 15 or 16, where the computer is further 35 programmed to identify an issuer of assets.

18. The system according to any one of claims 15 to 17, where the record of each asset's use further includes the date and time that the asset was issued by the issuer and received by the receiver.

5 19. The system according to any one of claims 15 to 18, where the record of the asset's use includes a date and a time that the issuer received the asset which the receiver returned.

10 20. The system according to any one of claims 15 to 19, where the computer is further programmed such that if a match is determined a message is able to be generated authorising the release of the asset to the receiver.

21. The system according to any one of claims 15 to 20, where the computer is further programmed such that if a match is not determined the issuer is alerted.

15 22. The system according to any one of claims 15 to 21, where the asset identifier is a radio frequency reader for identifying the asset to be issued or to be returned.

20 23. The system according to any one of claims 15 to 21, where the asset identifier is a barcode reader for identifying the asset to be issued or to be returned.

25 24. An electronic message for transmission from a biometric capture apparatus to a computer during a computerized identity matching process for regulating the issue of an asset or the return of an asset, the electronic message comprising a captured image of a potential receiver of the asset, the captured image encoded with the unique code obtained from the computer.